

KIWANIS / THE LAKES

Character-Defining Elements



Character-defining elements are the terms used to describe a wide range of qualitative themes including social aspects, design aesthetics, or the built environment where we live. These elements include aspects you want to preserve, what you like now, and/or how you want it to be in future. From the *Character Area Workshop* on June 2 and June 26, 2014 participants identified twelve (12) key character elements. These are the elements we heard from you that best describe the **Kiwanis / The Lakes** Character Area.

Livable
attractive, desirable, convenient, comfortable, established, neat & well maintained

ATTRIBUTES

- Desirable in-city location
- Distinguishable architectural variety (not all the same style)

GAPS

- Baseline/Rural/Lakeshore to develop as: attractive multi-level development with shops on bottom and housing on top; open space, walkable areas with trees/ flowers and water features; a place where people of all ages would want to go – theater, shops, etc.; make it a quality infill opportunity and to serve as a new hub
- Bike and walkable businesses
- Stronger code compliance effort (landlords to keep up rentals and cite homes with overgrown yards)

Friendly
people, family, neighbor and pet-friendly, all ages + ethnicities, accommodating, creative, welcoming, tolerant

ATTRIBUTES

- Sense of community that keeps people living in this area for decades
- Desirable place for families in all stages of life

GAPS

- Amenities for teens

Local
local business + shopping, mixed use hub, independent, eclectic, people-oriented

ATTRIBUTES

- Support and appreciate Whole Foods, Changing Hands Bookstore, Trader Joe's
- Local places – Steve's Espresso, 24 Carrot, The Watershed

GAPS

- Repurpose vacant/aging strip centers
- Actively attract a mix of businesses that can create activity levels and interesting people-oriented destinations (like the Changing Hands / Wildflower / Trader Joe's)
- Want high-end independent restaurants; to see local identity similar to Arcadia (Postino's, or La Grand Orange)
- More locally owned restaurants/businesses
- Reprogram retail and restaurant within the Lakes
- Need better balanced tenant mix at older strip centers (i.e. Marco de Niza Plaza)
- Use Ken McDonald lot to host weekly food truck dining
- Encourage business growth within Baseline + Rural Growth Area
- Outdoor dining restaurants highly encouraged
- Restaurants that offer fresh, healthy food, local food, affordable prices
- Want bird food store, bakery, multi-cultural restaurants and movie theater

Limited Density
Low-density, single-family dominant,

ATTRIBUTES

- Mix of homes of all sizes and for all ages

GAPS

- Don't overdevelop with apartments (no more apartments)
- If density is approved (by City) then it should lower traffic (i.e. senior living facility were fewer persons drive)

Lush
shaded, beautiful landscaped areas, attractive streets

ATTRIBUTES

- Mature trees
- Landscaped streets

GAPS

- Restore and refresh landscape and block walls on arterials; consider incentives for replacing walls to upgrade appearance – target Rural, McClintock, Baseline and Guadalupe roads
- Shade along arterial streets; better landscaping to define area
- Improvements to collector streets including increased shade along sidewalks and bike lanes
- Additional canal landscape and hardscape – soften the canal experience
- Explore identifiable theme for the major arterial intersections (could include color of street signs, lighting color, or character area signage.

Walkable/Bikeable
paths, canals, sidewalks

ATTRIBUTES

- Neighborhoods are walkable and bikeable
- Bike and pedestrian bridges over US 60 are outstanding
- Established bike lanes are great; add them to all arterial and collector streets

GAPS

- Pedestrian connections within and between developments; create more crossings to tie commercial corners together
- More protected or separate walk/bike paths; routes in north-south direction
- Continue separate bike paths – lighted and paved to connect to Downtown Tempe
- Improve pedestrian-friendly connecting paths with neighborhood access to and lighting along the Western Canal
- Bike and walkable businesses and local destinations

KIWANIS / THE LAKES

Character-Defining Elements



Education/Culture

educated residents, school grounds access
/shared use, learning and continuing education

Future Oriented

progressive, forward thinking
evolving

Sustainable

solar, clean environment, open space,
shade

Active

dynamic, vibrant, recreation,
outdoor activities
pride-of-ownership, civic
engagement, citizen-driven
development

Connected

convenient, neighborhood
circulator (Orbit), drivable,
accessible, community- centered
meeting-places

Safe

quiet, peaceful, stability
crime prevention, neighborhood
watch, law enforcement, well-lit

ATTRIBUTES

- Have good schools and school district; and special programs (i.e. Autism)
- Kiwanis Park fishing, recreation center wave pool, festivals (i.e. Halloween Carnival)

ATTRIBUTES

- Continue to develop in a way that promotes bike and walkability and transit access
- Support expansion of local business and actively recruit business, restaurants + retail areas to expand offerings to the area

ATTRIBUTES

- Parks that collect rain water
- Large solar installation at SE Tempe Treatment Plant
- Community garden (Rural /Guadalupe)

GAPS

- Bring solar panels to parks, grocery stores and utilities
- Find retail businesses to sell and install rooftop solar for homes and small businesses
- Ensure new development means more trees and greenery
- Provide shade plan for Kiwanis Park
- Electric hybrid vehicle charging
- Want a community garden, urban farm and open-air market year round

ATTRIBUTES

- Western Canal Path is a great part of the neighborhood
- Kiwanis Park and abundance of neighborhood parks are excellent
- Parks are maintained and designed with good taste and not just with low budget landscape dictating the design
- HOA and NA involvement
- Ken McDonald Golf Course

GAPS

- Improve Scudder Park
- Enhancement of recreation options at Kiwanis Park – upgrade fields (to host more sporting events), add dog park or dog water park
- Add skate park at: (one location) Gaicki, Kiwanis or Stroud Park
- Optimist Park basketball lights on court and restrooms
- Stroud Park needs teen-friendly amenities
- Local community involvement in development changes; importance to understand what is happening in the character area; ensure diversity outreach in planning meetings
- Neighborhood leadership teams or Community Committees
- Better assist neighbors to participate
- Form “weed removal task groups” within street community; get use organized to help each other

ATTRIBUTES

- Easy access to freeways
- Baseline, Rural and McClintock are prime transit streets

GAPS

- Extend Neighborhood circulator (Orbit) to area, connecting area to downtown Tempe, Library and other key Tempe destinations
- More bus pullouts to improve traffic flow
- Places to gather with room for music/arts/festivals
- Do not impede traffic flow on major streets; it only pushes traffic into residential side streets

ATTRIBUTES

- Tempe Police are quick to respond to security concerns when community members call
- Feeling safe in our neighborhood

GAPS

- Reduce speed limit to 35 along Baseline/Rural for safety and to help noise pollution.
- Enforce noise ordinance against barking dogs
- Residential speed humps where appropriate
- Shared center lane at Rural Rd fork is a major problem
- Improve neighborhood lighting in the front yard areas where inadequate (i.e. leading to Aguilar Elementary)

Additional Ideas for consideration:

- Develop design guidelines for “canalscapes”, commercial corners, mixed use and multi-family development
- More opportunities to integrate public art in commercial and neighborhoods
- Amenities to attract young families
- Open (improved) access to and use of school playfields for non-school hours/days
- Work with HOA’s, NA’s and neighborhoods to identify walk routes
- Complete connection along El Paso Path
- Activate canal areas (festival, art, rest stops, adjacent development opportunities, more crossings)
- Tree planting effort in areas where more shade is needed